provides for the stationing of one expert in FRG, another German expert in India as also for the hiring of specialists in different fields. It also provides for an increased German funding from DM 5 million in the first phase to DM 11.12 million with the counterpart funding of Rs. 15 lakhs from the Government of India.

Indo-German Agreement on Financial Cooperation

12. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-German agreement on financial cooperation was signed in the last week of February, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of the industries in which the financial aid is likely to be utilised; and

(c) the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The financial aid will be utilised for the following:—

(i) DM 14 million credit is for import of capital goods mainly for private sector enterprises;

(ii) DM 100 million credit is for import of fertiliser from FRG;

(iii) DM 60 million credit is for financing local currency costs in respect of project "Dadri Combined gas-steam Power Plant".

(c) DM 14 million for capital goods credit was an advance allocation from 1991 annual allocations. DM 100 million for fertiliser credit and DM 60 million for Dadri project were provided by reprogramming of the funds which were lying unutilised from allocations of the previous years.

Delegation of Powers to CCI & E under Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947

13. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 22 February, 1991, to Unstarred Question No. 132, regarding delegation of powers under the Imports & Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and state the time by which valid delegation of powers to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports will be made and Delegation Orders placed on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The matter is still under active consideration and as soon as a decision is taken, the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Setting up a Bench of Orissa High Court at Sambalpur

14. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a bench of Orissa High Court in Western Orissa at Sambalpur;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this bench is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The State Government intimated in March this year that in view of the persistent demand from the legal practitioners and general public they had taken in principle

a decision favouring establishment of Circuit Benches of the Orissa High Court at Berhampur, Sambalpur or Bolangir. The High Court of Orissa, in the full Court, does not favour setting up of Benches. The Court is of the considered view that hearing of cases in circuit would be more burdensome and harassing for the litigants and is not conducive to proper administration of justice. The suggestion of the State Government is also not favoured as they do not meet general important principles and criterion evolved by Jaswant Singh Commission set up to consider establishing of Benches of High Courts.

Confiscation of Smuggled Gold

15. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the quantity and the value of smuggled gold confiscated by various Government agencies during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The quantity and value of contraband gold seized throughout the country by various Government agencies under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 during the last 6 months from January to June, 1991 are given in the table below:—

Quantity in Kgs.	*Value (Rs. in crores)*
2926*	102.24*

*Figures are provisional.

Merger of Regional Rural Banks with Commercial Banks

16. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the regional rural banks with the Commercial Banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

IMF Loan

17. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI :

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought a loan of seven Billion U.S. Dollars from the International Monetary Fund (IMF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of this loan and other facilities to be availed of from the I.M.F.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir. However some preliminary discussions are being held with the IMF to explore the possibilities of assistance to reduce the strain on the balance of payments.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

18. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and different High Courts as on 30 June, 1991, Court-wise; and

(b) the number of vacancies filled up, if any by the Government after the notification for the General Elections was issued and the details thereof, Court-wise?